



CONFEDERATE
GRAVES





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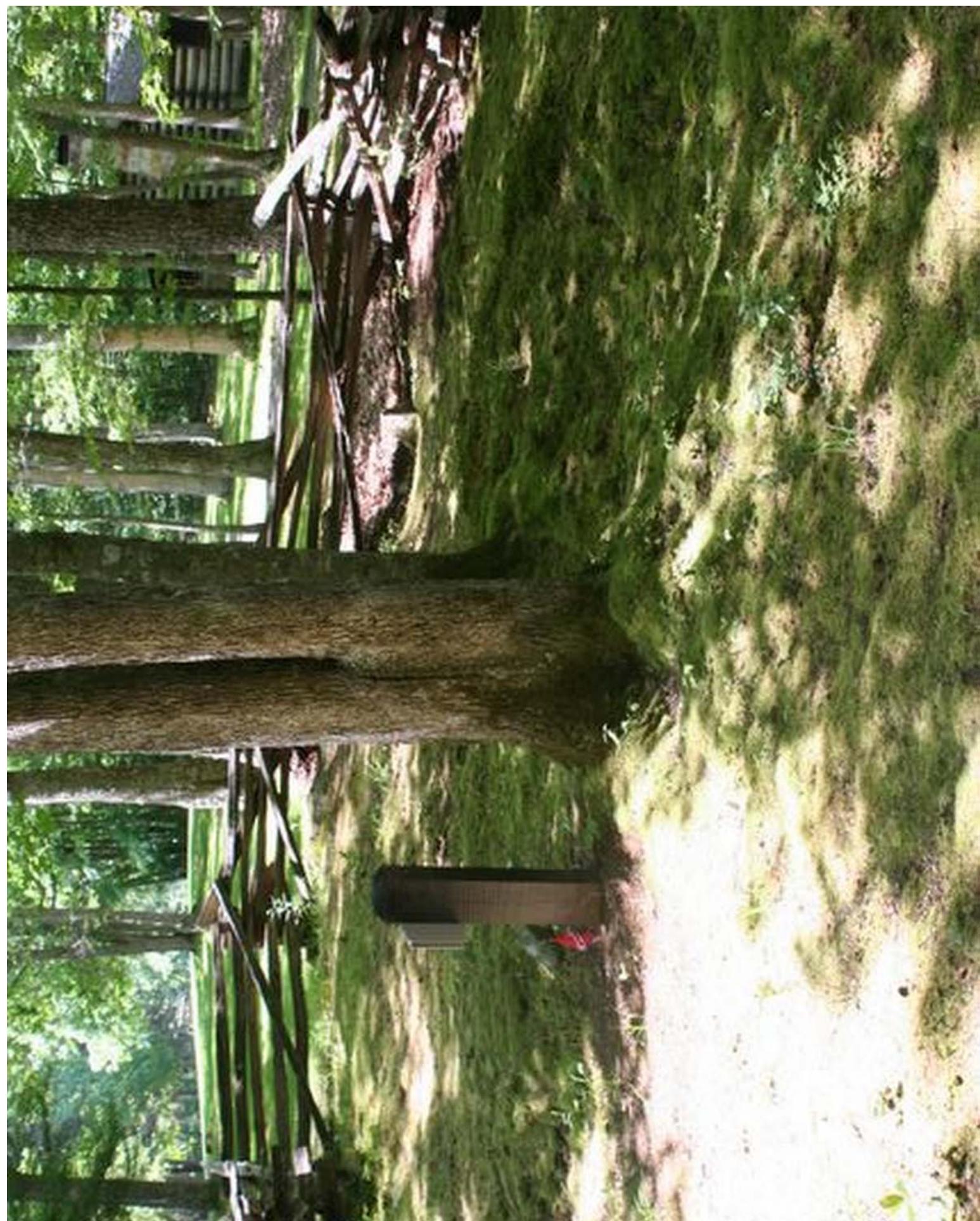








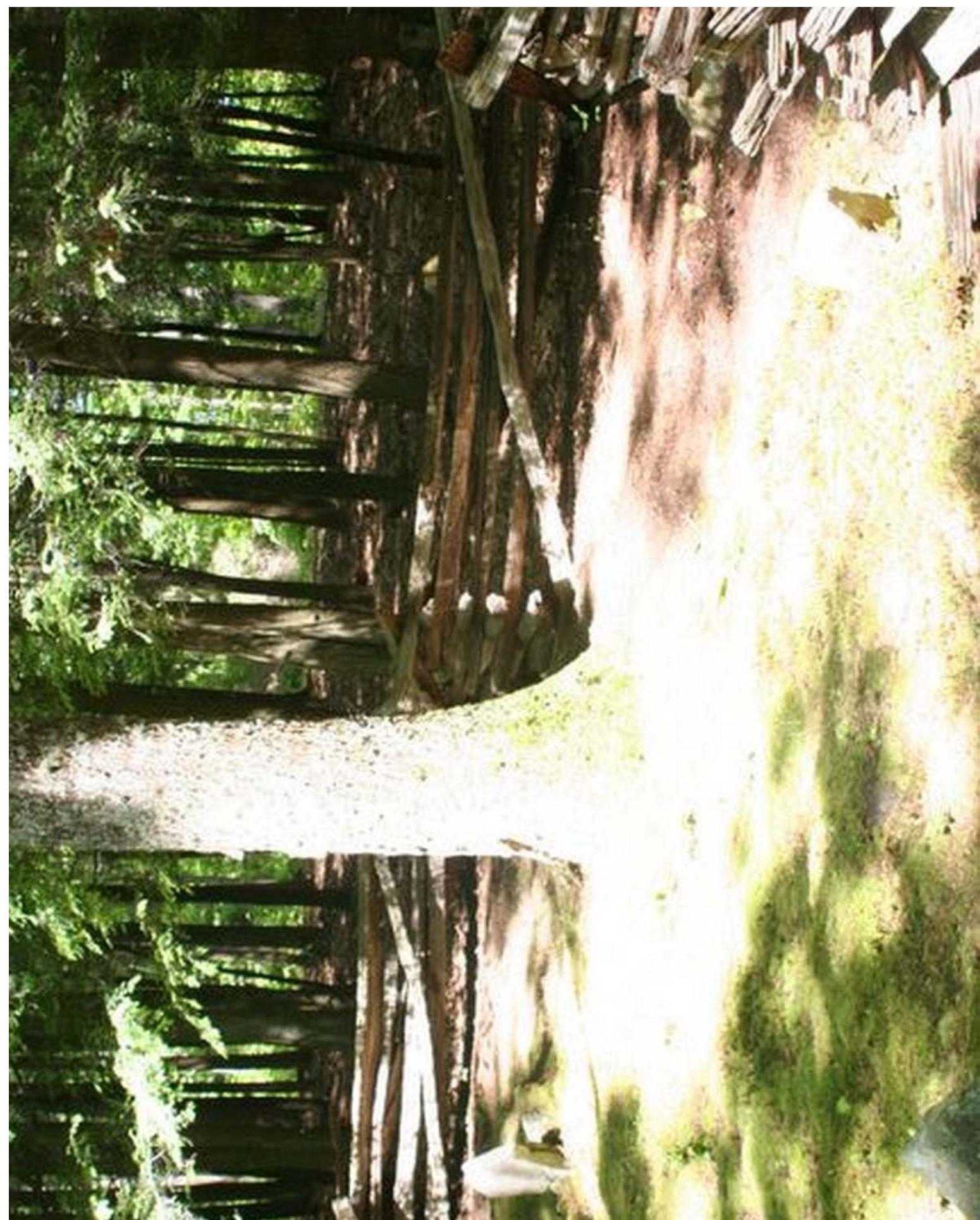


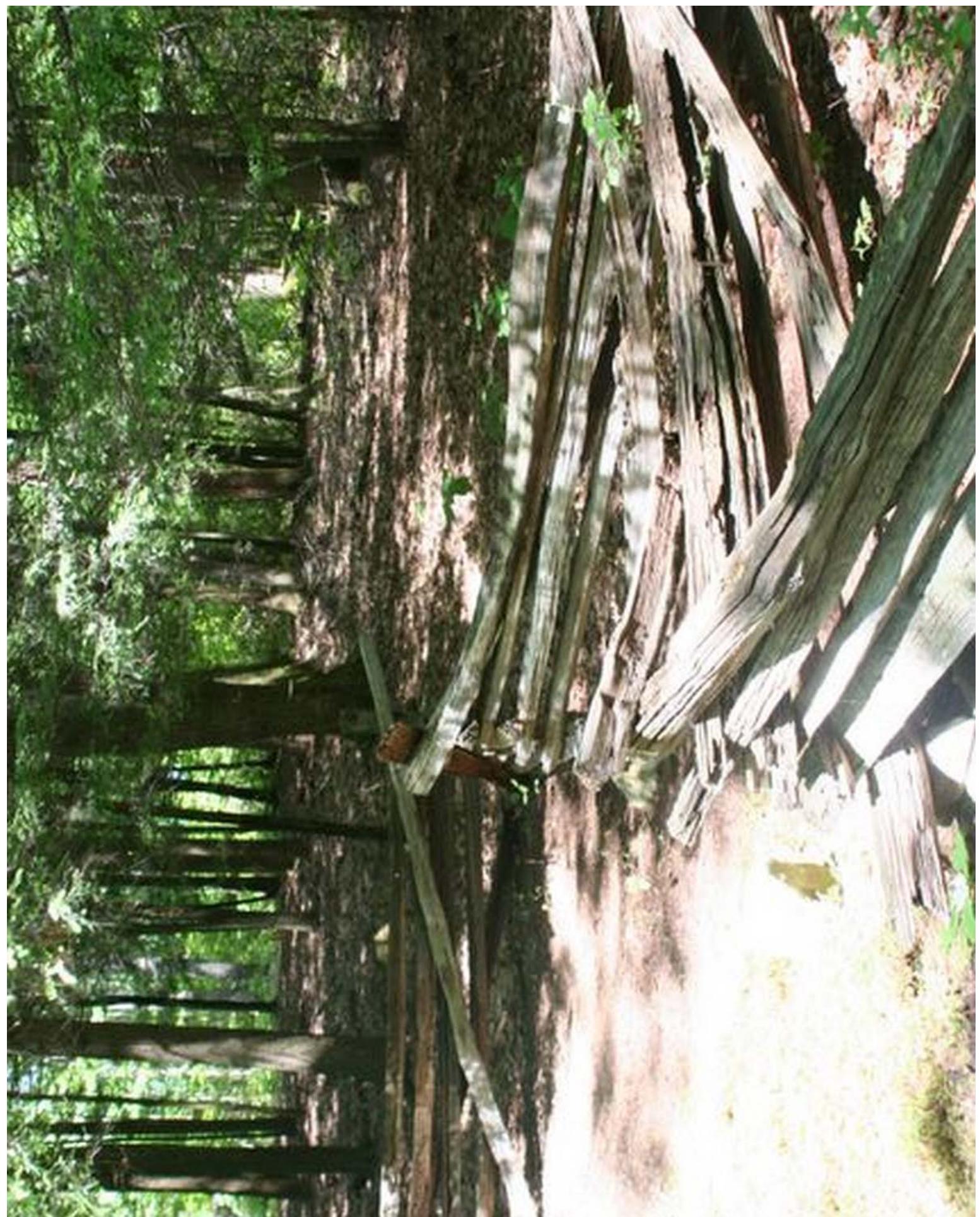






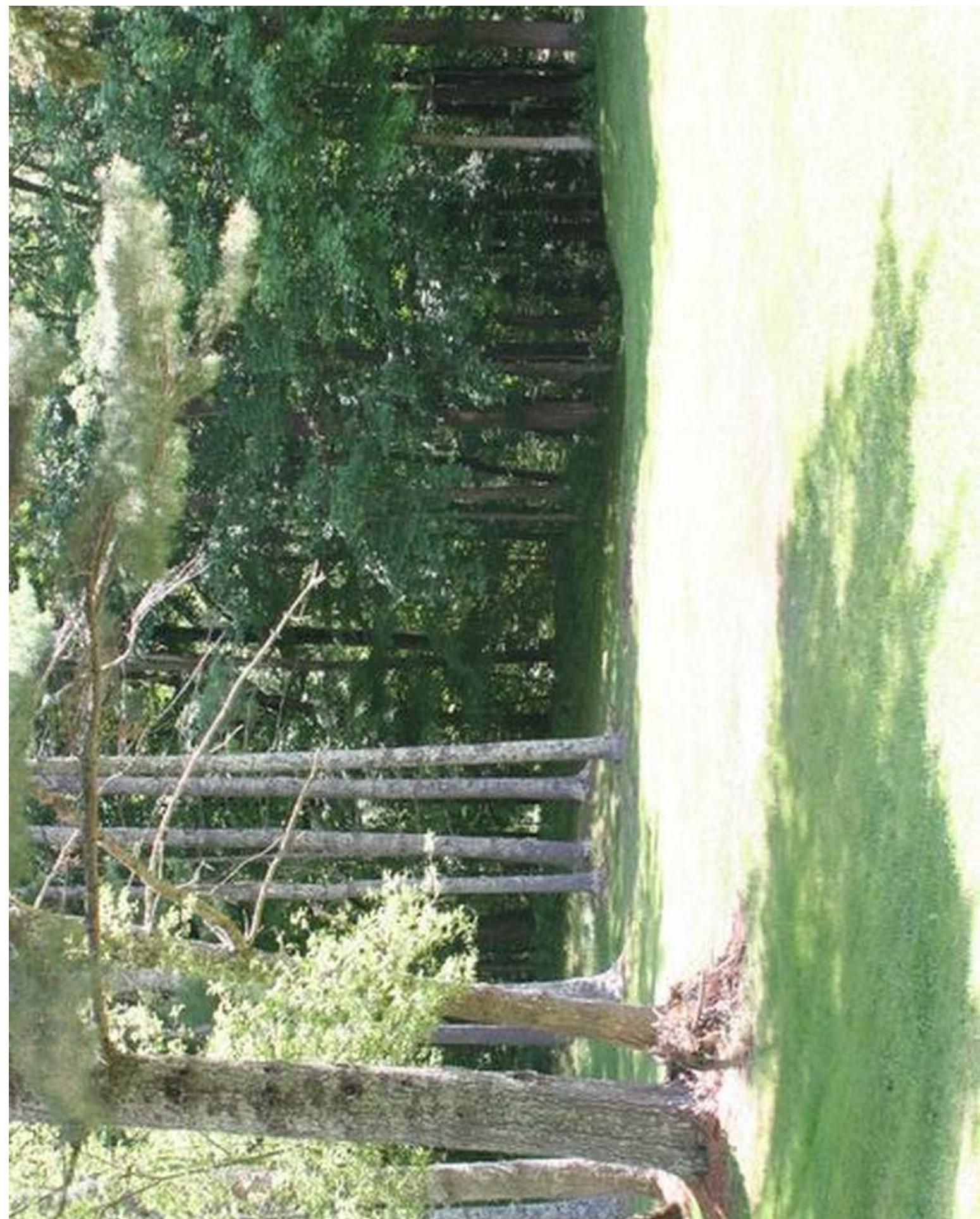




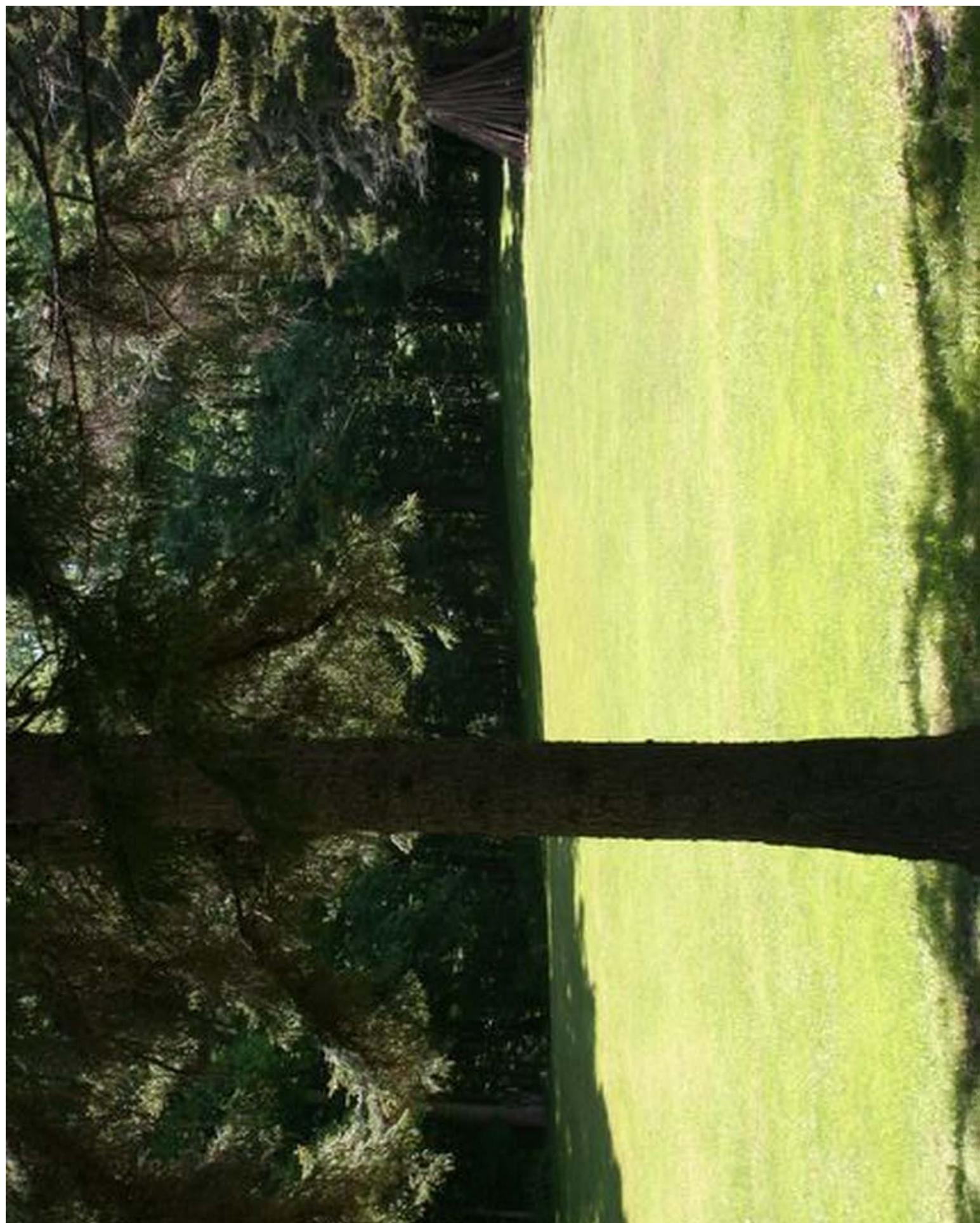


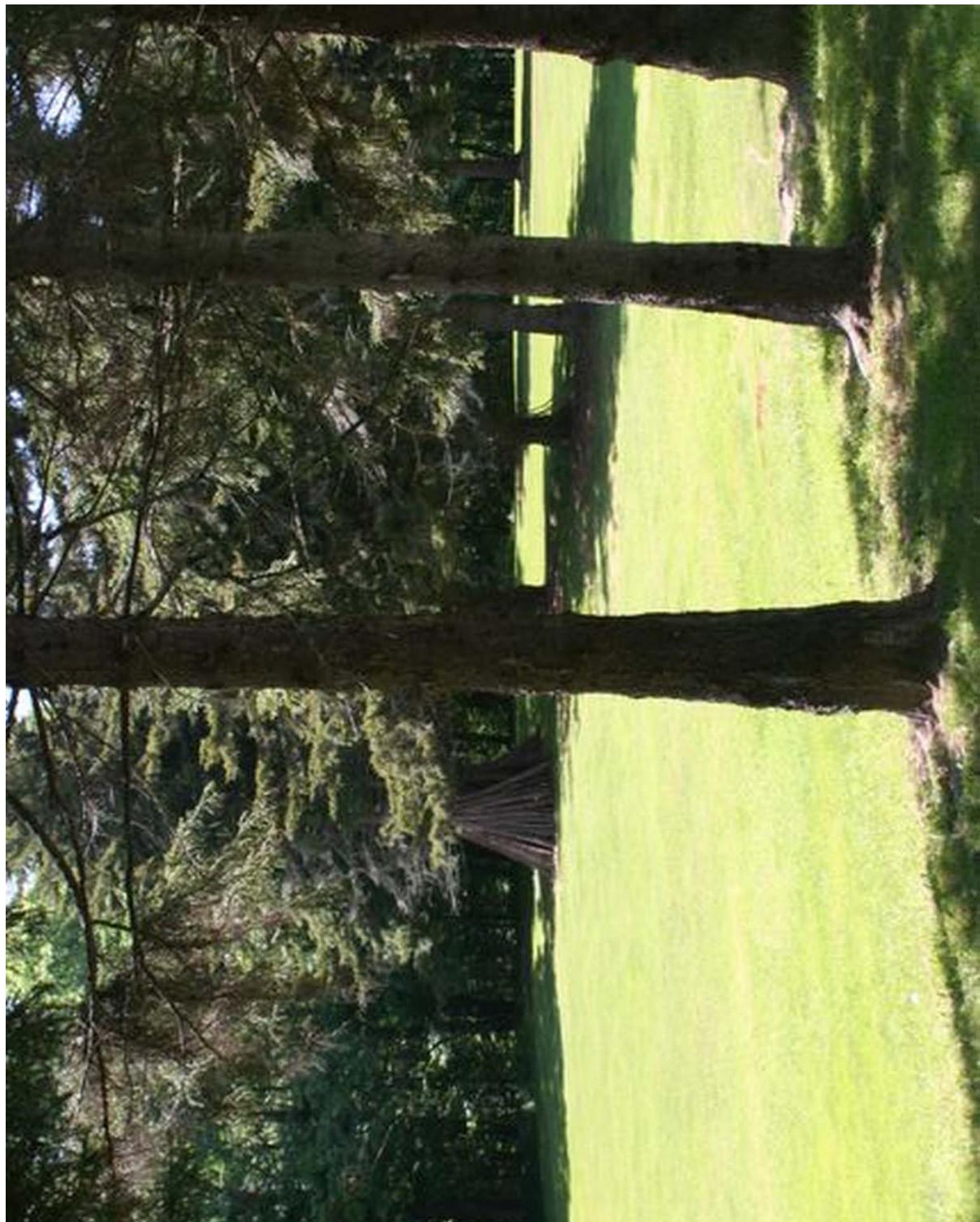


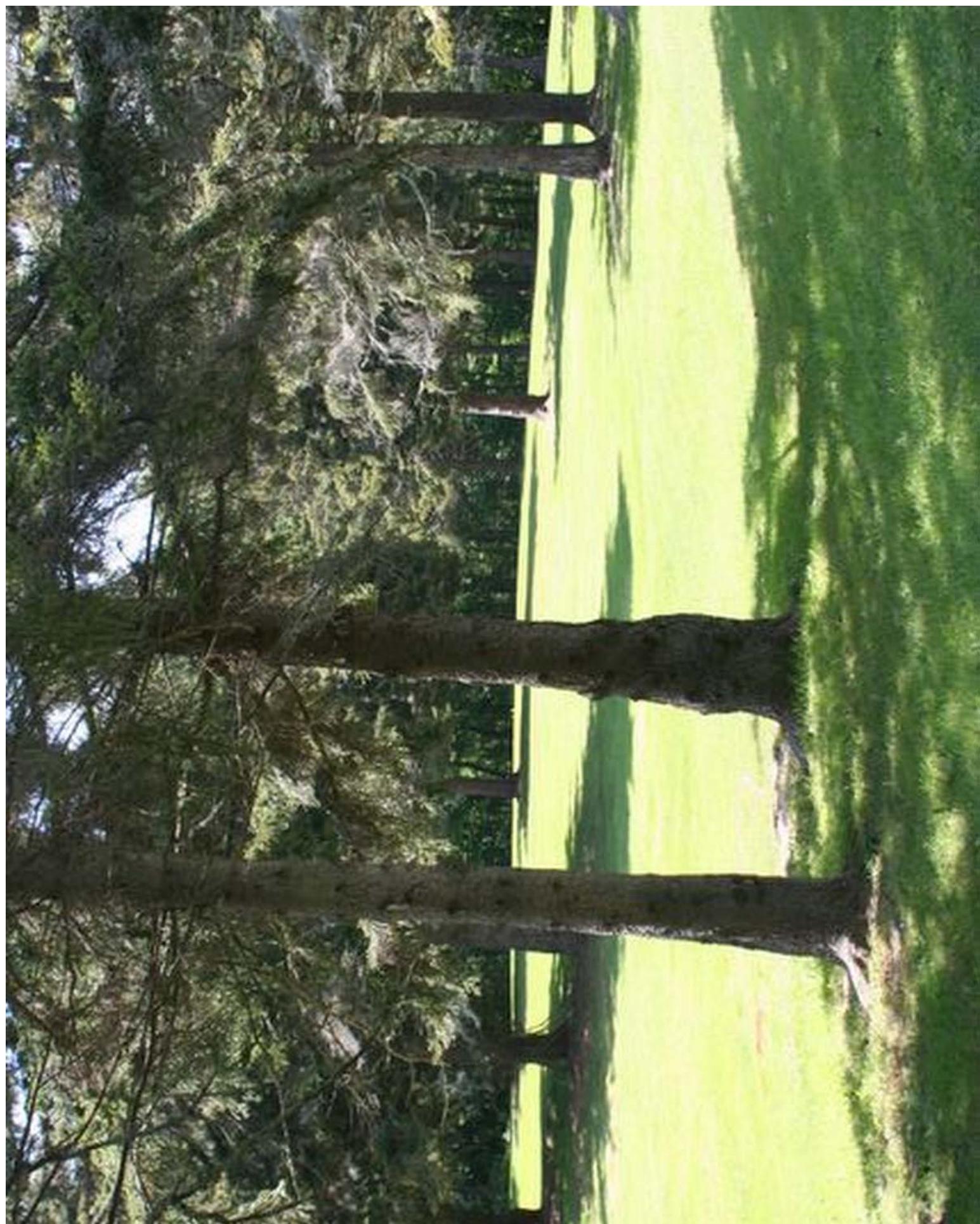


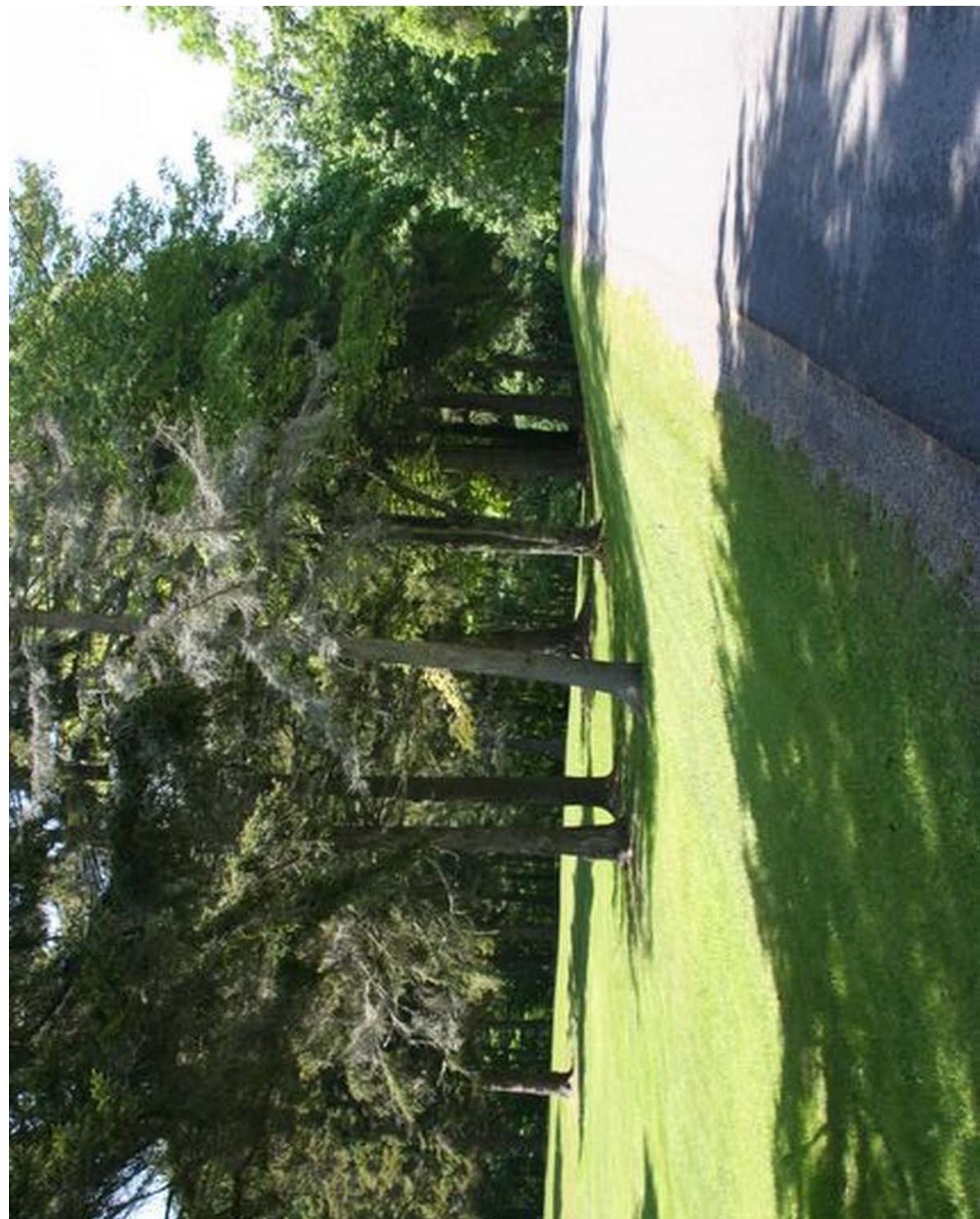














THE BATTLE AT DROOP MOUNTAIN



NOVEMBER 16, 1863

North five months after West Virginia was admitted into the Union, the Confederate army of Major General John Echols had occupied the prosperous Greenbrier Valley region of the new state. From its headquarters in Lewisburg, his army was the forward defense of the Virginia Western Railroad, an important Confederate supply line in southwest Virginia.

On August 26 and 27, 1863, the Confederate army had successfully repelled an attack at White Sulphur Springs by the Federal Army of West Virginia. In early November, Echols learned that General Tavel had left his headquarters in Beverly, West Virginia, and was again moving northward along the railroad. Confederate troops in Pocahontas County tried to slow the advance, General Echols marched his army north, all through the night, to Droop Mountain to reinforce them.

The reinforcement arrived just in time, for General Tavel began his attack early. Throughout the morning, Echols' command held Confederate army held the high ground and blocked the way with artillery, but in the afternoon was overwhelmed by the crushing advance of an infantry on the left bank. Following the collapse of his lines, General Echols retreated into Virginia with the remnants of his command. Federal troops occupied Lewisburg December 5, 1863, but being bordered by preserves and captured frontiers, General Echols was able to return to his headquarters in Beverly, winning one early December to lead a gallantly successful attack on the vital railroad. Operations in the Shenandoah Valley in 1864 drew remaining Confederate troops out of West Virginia, thus new state securely under the control of the Federal government for the remainder

Map Legend: Union Confederacy



General John Echols

400 casualties, (140 Union and approximately 275 Confederate) the battle at
Droop Mountain was one of the last significant Civil War battles in West Virginia.

